

REMARKS

Summary of Office Action

The Examiner found that there are allegedly four distinct inventions in the above-identified patent application and required restriction to one of those inventions, as follows:

Group I: Claims 1-16, drawn to a "method of producing an anastomotic connection between graft tissue and a sidewall, classified in class 128, subclass 898;"

Group II: Claims 17-54, drawn to a "connector, classified in class 606, subclass 153;" and

Group III: Claim 55, drawn to an "apparatus for forming a connection, classified in class 606, subclass 151."

The Examiner has also found that there are allegedly four distinct species in the above-identified patent application and required election of one of those species , as follows:

Species A: Claims 1-10, directed to a method of producing an anastomotic connection with "connectors without members on the medial portion;"

Species B: Claims 11-16, directed to a method of producing an anastomotic connection with connectors that "have members on the medial portion;"

Species C: Claims 17-36 and 54, directed to "connectors without members on the medial portion;" and

Species D: Claims 37-53, directed to connectors that "have members on the medial portion."

The Examiner states that, currently, no claim is generic.

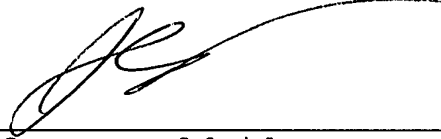
Applicants' Response

Applicants provisionally elect, without traverse, for examination in this application, the invention of Group II and Species C (i.e., claims 17-36 and 54). Therefore, applicants have cancelled claims 1-16, 37-53, and 55 without prejudice. Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue any of these cancelled claims in one or more divisional applications.

Application No. 10/678,403
Amendment dated April 25, 2007
Reply to Office Action of January 9, 2007

An early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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